Identification Project with the collaboration of National Remote Sensing Agency. Under this project 237 districts in the country having more than 5% of geographical area as wastelands have been mapped. Therefore precise information regarding the extent of wastelands for all the districts in the country is not yet available. However, the Land Utilisation Statistics (Government of Uttar Pradesh) has estimated that there are 2.981 million hectares of wastelands in Uttar Pradesh. According to the Government of Uttar Pradesh 50% of these wastelands can be developed for agriculture provided adequate financial resources are made available. Generally, land which is suitable for agriculture can also be used for other activities like horticulture and tree plantation.

(b) Afforestation/tree planting activity in the State of Uttar Pradesh is carried out under Point No. 16 of the 20 Point Programme on lands, including wastelands, under various schemes of Central and State Governments. The extent of the areas covered during the last 3 years under this programme is given below:

Year	Area covered (in lakh hectares)
1992-93	1.14
1993-94	0.83
1994-95	0.72@

@Tentative

Issuance of Blood Bank Licences

509. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to Answer to starred Question 808 given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st June, 1995 and state whether the procurement of the AIDS testing equipment is insisted for the issuance of Blood Bank Licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELAFRE (DR. C. SILVERA): Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 provide that every licences have to get every blood unit tested to ensure freedom from HIV and bodies (AIDS) either from laboratories specified by the Central Government or in the licencee's own laboratory. For HIV Test by ELISA method ELISA Reader, washer and Micro pipettes are specified under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

Membership of service associations to retired employees

510. SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to provide for membership of service associations to the retired employees of organisations/department/ Ministries to the tune of 25% of serving employees;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government are considering the above proposition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, as a transitional measure, for a period of two years from the date of grant of recognition under the CCS(RSA) Rules, 1993 the existing Association have been allowed to continue with the retired/ex-employees as their office bearers to the extent of 25% of the total strength of the office bearers subject to the condition that one of the Chief Office bearers should be a serving employee.

(c) No, Sir.